



TO: Human Services Committee  
FROM: Ben Shaiken, Director of Government Relations CT Community Nonprofit Alliance  
RE: H.B. 6616 An Act Concerning Expansion of Husky Health Benefits to those  
Ineligible due to Immigration Status.

Good afternoon Senator Lesser, Representative Gilchrest, Senator Seminara, Representative Case and distinguished members of the Human Services Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of H.B. 6616 An Act Concerning Expansion of Husky Health Benefits to those Ineligible due to Immigration Status.

My name is Ben Shaiken, Director of Government Relations at the CT Community Nonprofit Alliance (The Alliance). The Alliance is Connecticut's statewide advocacy organization representing nonprofits. Nonprofits deliver essential community services to more than half a million people each year.

H.B. 6616 would expand Medicaid for Connecticut residents up to the age of 26 regardless of immigration status. A person's immigration status should not determine their access to much needed healthcare coverage. Many states including California, Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, Washington and the District of Columbia have all expanded their Medicaid programs to provide insurance coverage to all income-eligible children, regardless of their immigration status. Expanding coverage provides the insured with preventative care, keeping children and their families from costly emergency room visits whenever possible.

Because community nonprofits serve and support Medicaid recipients as well as anyone who comes to their doors regardless of their ability to pay, The Alliance supports expanding Medicaid coverage to include all income-eligible children, regardless of their immigration status. It is an important step in achieving equitable access to healthcare and establishing continuity of care, ensuring all children in Connecticut receive the best care possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration.